

(c) and (d). In Pilibhit (North Division) during 1991-92 the total quantity of sal seeds auctioned was 13,901 Qtl. and revenue realised was Rs. 15.75 lakhs.

[English]

Prohibition Of Dowry

*390. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the evil practice of dowry is still prevalent in the country;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prohibit the same;

(c) the incentives proposed to be given to encourage marriages without dowry; and

(d) whether the Government propose to finance those institutions and voluntary organisations which organise marriages of poor persons without dowry?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have initiated various steps to discourage the giving and taking of dowry. These include:

i) Amendments were made to Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 in 1984 and 1986 and consequential amendments were made in the Criminal Laws, such as the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act. the Dowry Prohibition Act has since been reviewed again in January 1991.

ii) Instructions have been issued to the State Governments and UT Administrations to effectively enforce legislation relating to crime against women.

iii) Mass media campaigns against the social evil of dowry have also been stepped up. Through the programmes of electronic media social awareness regarding the evil is being disseminated.

iv) a number of schemes for training, income generation economic development and various supportive services for women are being implemented by the Government to enable women to become economically independent so that they can withstand demands for dowry.

v) Schemes for awareness generation are being implemented through women's voluntary organisations, institutions and Universities for organising camps, legal literacy programme and other activities for creating awareness of women's rights.

(c) There is no proposal to give incentives for dowryless marriages.

(d) No, Sir.

Integrated Development Of Small And Medium Towns

*391 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount was sanctioned by the Union Government to the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and U.P. under the centrally sponsored Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme during the year 1990-91;

(b) if so, the amounts sanctioned and actually released during that year, separately; and